

5 Easy Steps to Setting Your Irrigation Controller

1 Measure how much water per hour your sprinklers put out: place some tuna cans or other straight-sided containers around your lawn or throughout your planting beds, and run the sprinklers for 15 minutes. Average the depth of water in the cans and multiply by 4. This is your sprinkler output in inches per hour.



2 Look at the tables on the next pages. Find your region and the current month for your type of grass. It will show the total recommended minutes for watering each week for your sprinkler system's output in inches per hour. If the time is more than 15 minutes, divide it into 2, 3, or 4 waterings separated by a day or two.

3 Set the timer to turn on the sprinklers early in the morning and to run for the time needed. For example, if the chart indicates that you need to water for 45 minutes per week this month, set the timer to come on at 6:00 am for 15 minutes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. During the winter months, you can usually turn the system off, since the rainwater received by your lawn will be sufficient.

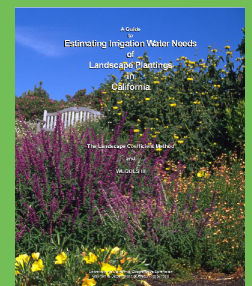


4 Look at your walkways during the first watering. If there is runoff from the lawn or beds that is not from overspray onto concrete, note how long the sprinklers run before the runoff occurs. This is the maximum time your system should run at one setting. If Step 2 determined that 15 minutes were needed each day, and runoff occurs at 8 minutes, then set your timer to come on for 7-8 minutes 2 times, or 5 minutes 3 times, with at least one hour between each watering.



5 To set the controller for your planting beds, determine which is the predominant plant in each area. Set the timer for those areas using the charts on back. If your main plant is not found on the back, use the free publication shown at the right:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf>



Water Usage of Common Landscape Plants

Find your predominant plant below, and its water use classification. Consult the tables on the next two pages for your timer settings. If your plant is not listed below: Consult this online publication:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/wucols00.pdf>. 1) Look on p.57 to find your region.

2) Look on p. 101 to find the official name of the plant if you only know the common name.

3) Look on pages 61-99 to find your plant's listing as Low, Medium, or High water use for your region.

| PLANT NAME | | WATER USE BY AREA | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------|------------|
| COMMON | SCIENTIFIC | COASTAL | INLAND | DESERT:L-H |
| Abelia | <i>Abelia xgrandiflora</i> | M | M | N/A |
| African daisy | <i>Osteospermum fruticosum</i> | L | L | M-N/A |
| Azalea | <i>Rhododendron</i> (various species and hybrids) | M | H | N/A |
| Barberry | <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | L | L | M-L |
| Begonia | <i>Begonia semperflorens</i> | M | M | M-N/A |
| Boxwood | <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> and hybrids | M | M | M |
| California lilac | <i>Ceanothus</i> (various species) | L | L | N/A-L |
| Camellia | <i>Camellia</i> (various species) | M | H-M | H-N/A |
| Cotoneaster | <i>Cotoneaster</i> (various species) | L-M | M | M |
| Coyote brush | <i>Baccharis pilularis</i> | L | L | N/A |
| Crape Myrtle | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> | M | M | M |
| Daylily | <i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids | M | M | M |
| Escallonia | <i>Escallonia</i> hybrids | M | M | M-N/A |
| Euonymus | <i>Euonymus</i> (various species and hybrids) | M | M | M |
| Euryops | <i>Euryops pectinatus</i> | L-M | L-M | M |
| False heather | <i>Cuphea hyssopifolia</i> | M | M | N/A |
| Fountain Grass | <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> ('Rubrum') | M | L | L |
| Fortnight lily, African iris | <i>Dietes</i> (various species and hybrids) | M | M | M-N/A |
| Gazania | <i>Gazania</i> hybrids | M | M | M |
| Heavenly bamboo | <i>Nandina domestica</i> | L | M | M |
| Hydrangea | <i>Hydrangea</i> (various species and hybrids) | M | M | H |
| Indian hawthorn | <i>Raphiolepis indica</i> | M | M | M |
| Juniper | <i>Juniperus</i> (various species and hybrids) | L | L-M | L-M |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana camara</i> , <i>L. montevidensis</i> , hybrids | L | L | M-N/A |
| Lily-of-the-Nile | <i>Agapanthus praecox orientalis</i> | M | M | M-N/A |
| Mock Orange | <i>Pittosporum</i> (various species) | M | M | M |
| Myoporum | <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i> | L | L | M-N/A |
| New Zealand flax | <i>Phormium tenax</i> | L | M | M-N/A |
| Photinia | <i>Photinia fraseri</i> | M | M | M |
| Privet | <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> | M | M | M |
| Rose | <i>Rosa</i> hybrids | M | M | H (some M) |
| Star Jasmine | <i>Trachelospermum jasminoides</i> | M | M | M |
| Verbena | <i>Verbena</i> hybrids | L-M | L-M | M-N/A |
| Viburnum | <i>Viburnum</i> (various species and hybrids) | M | M | M-N/A |
| Vinca | <i>Vinca minor</i> (<i>V. major</i> is considered invasive) | M | M | M |

Watering Guide for Central California

FOR YOUR LAWN: Find the table below for your region, cut it out, highlight the column for your sprinkler output, and hang it by your irrigation controller. If your lawn looks best in summer, use the warm season grass chart; if it looks best in late fall and early spring, use the cool-season grass chart. **FOR BEDS:** If your main plant is a HIGH water user, use the time for a cool-season grass; if MEDIUM, use the time for a warm season grass; if LOW, use ½ the time for a warm-season grass.

Region 5: San Joaquin Valley

| Warm Season Grass | | | | | Cool Season Grass | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|------|---|------|------|--------|------|
| Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | | Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | |
| | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in | | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in |
| JAN | 19 | 9 | 6 | 5 | JAN | 25 | 13 | 8 | 6 |
| FEB | 38 | 19 | 13 | 9 | FEB | 50 | 25 | 17 | 13 |
| MAR | 69 | 35 | 23 | 17 | MAR | 92 | 46 | 31 | 23 |
| APR | 101 | 50 | 34 | 25 | APR | 134 | 67 | 45 | 34 |
| MAY | 132 | 66 | 44 | 33 | MAY | 176 | 88 | 59 | 44 |
| JUN | 164 | 82 | 55 | 41 | JUN | 218 | 109 | 73 | 55 |
| JUL | 170 | 85 | 57 | 43 | JUL | 227 | 113 | 76 | 57 |
| AUG | 145 | 72 | 48 | 36 | AUG | 193 | 97 | 64 | 48 |
| SEP | 113 | 57 | 38 | 28 | SEP | 151 | 76 | 50 | 38 |
| OCT | 69 | 35 | 23 | 17 | OCT | 92 | 46 | 31 | 23 |
| NOV | 32 | 16 | 11 | 8 | NOV | 42 | 21 | 14 | 11 |
| DEC | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | DEC | 17 | 8 | 6 | 4 |

Region 6: Central Inland Valleys (between coast and San Joaquin)

| Warm Season Grass | | | | | Cool Season Grass | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|------|---|------|------|--------|------|
| Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | | Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | |
| | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in | | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in |
| JAN | 32 | 16 | 11 | 8 | JAN | 42 | 21 | 14 | 11 |
| FEB | 44 | 22 | 15 | 11 | FEB | 59 | 29 | 20 | 15 |
| MAR | 69 | 35 | 23 | 17 | MAR | 92 | 46 | 31 | 23 |
| APR | 95 | 47 | 32 | 24 | APR | 126 | 63 | 42 | 32 |
| MAY | 113 | 57 | 38 | 28 | MAY | 151 | 76 | 50 | 38 |
| JUN | 113 | 57 | 38 | 28 | JUN | 151 | 76 | 50 | 38 |
| JUL | 132 | 66 | 44 | 33 | JUL | 176 | 88 | 59 | 44 |
| AUG | 126 | 63 | 42 | 32 | AUG | 168 | 84 | 56 | 42 |
| SEP | 107 | 54 | 36 | 27 | SEP | 143 | 71 | 48 | 36 |
| OCT | 76 | 38 | 25 | 19 | OCT | 102 | 50 | 34 | 25 |
| NOV | 44 | 22 | 15 | 11 | NOV | 59 | 29 | 20 | 15 |
| DEC | 32 | 16 | 11 | 8 | DEC | 42 | 21 | 14 | 11 |

Region 7: Sierra

| Warm Season Grass | | | | | Cool Season Grass | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|------|---|------|------|--------|------|
| Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | | Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | |
| | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in | | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in |
| JAN | | | | | JAN | 31 | 15 | 10 | 8 |
| FEB | | | | | FEB | 43 | 22 | 14 | 11 |
| MAR | | | | | MAR | 79 | 39 | 26 | 20 |
| APR | | | | | APR | 124 | 62 | 41 | 31 |
| MAY | | | | | MAY | 164 | 82 | 55 | 41 |
| JUN | | | | | JUN | 207 | 103 | 69 | 52 |
| JUL | | | | | JUL | 231 | 115 | 77 | 58 |
| AUG | | | | | AUG | 198 | 99 | 66 | 50 |
| SEP | | | | | SEP | 141 | 70 | 47 | 35 |
| OCT | | | | | OCT | 96 | 48 | 32 | 24 |
| NOV | | | | | NOV | 40 | 20 | 13 | 10 |
| DEC | | | | | DEC | 20 | 10 | 7 | 5 |

Warm-season turfgrasses are not recommended in this region

Region 8: Central California Coast

| Warm Season Grass | | | | | Cool Season Grass | | | | |
|---|------|------|--------|------|---|------|------|--------|------|
| Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | | Minutes per week to water if your hourly sprinkler output is: | | | | |
| | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in | | ½ in | 1 in | 1 ½ in | 2 in |
| JAN | 38 | 19 | 13 | 9 | JAN | 50 | 25 | 17 | 13 |
| FEB | 50 | 25 | 17 | 13 | FEB | 67 | 34 | 22 | 17 |
| MAR | 63 | 32 | 21 | 16 | MAR | 84 | 42 | 28 | 21 |
| APR | 88 | 44 | 29 | 22 | APR | 118 | 59 | 39 | 29 |
| MAY | 101 | 50 | 34 | 25 | MAY | 134 | 67 | 45 | 34 |
| JUN | 113 | 57 | 38 | 28 | JUN | 151 | 76 | 50 | 38 |
| JUL | 95 | 47 | 32 | 24 | JUL | 126 | 63 | 42 | 32 |
| AUG | 113 | 57 | 38 | 28 | AUG | 151 | 76 | 50 | 38 |
| SEP | 95 | 47 | 32 | 24 | SEP | 126 | 63 | 42 | 32 |
| OCT | 69 | 35 | 23 | 17 | OCT | 92 | 46 | 31 | 23 |
| NOV | 50 | 25 | 17 | 13 | NOV | 67 | 34 | 22 | 17 |
| DEC | 38 | 19 | 13 | 9 | DEC | 50 | 25 | 17 | 13 |

For more detailed information, visit the
UC Guide to Healthy Lawns web site at:
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF>
or view these free publications:

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8044.pdf>

<http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/7227.pdf>

Authors:

Lorence (Loren) R. Oki, Ph.D.
CE Specialist, Landscape Horticulture
UC Cooperative Extension
UC Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences
(530) 754-4135
lroki@ucdavis.edu

Darren L. Haver, Ph.D.
CE Water Resources/Quality Advisor
Director, South Coast Research & Extension Center
UC Cooperative Extension Orange County
(714) 708-1613
dlhaver@ucdavis.edu

Karrie Reid, M.S.
CE Environmental Horticulture Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension
San Joaquin County
(209) 953-6109
skreid@ucdavis.edu

Tammy Majcherek
Program Representative
UC Davis, Dept. of Plant Sciences
South Coast Research & Extension Center
(949) 733-3970
tjmajcherek@ucdavis.edu

